

Appl. No.: 10/749,042
Amdt. dated 07/25/2005
Reply to Official Action of April 8, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the present application, as evidenced by the first Official Action. The first Official Action rejects all of the pending claims, namely Claims 1-18, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0039709 to Pirhonen et al. As explained below, however, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the Pirhonen application, and accordingly traverses the rejection of the claims as being anticipated thereby. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims of the present application.

The Pirhonen application provides a method for facilitating payments in a mobile device by providing the mobile device with a payment certificate. As disclosed, the payment certificate is provided by a certificate issuer, and includes one or more device identities such as, for example, a Bluetooth identity, telephone number, mobile station identity number, device public key, international mobile station equipment identity (IMEI) or the like. In addition, the payment certificate includes a payment card identifier as an identity for payment clearing purposes, where the payment card identifier may be associated with a corresponding personal identification number (PIN), and may include a period for which the certificate is valid. Thus, for the period the certificate is valid, the mobile device may use the certificate to authenticate itself during the purchase of goods or services.

In accordance with one aspect of the claimed invention of the present application, as currently recited by independent Claim 1, a system is provided that includes a terminal, a secondary certification authority (CA), a tertiary CA and a server. As recited, the terminal is included within an organization including a plurality of terminals, where at least one terminal has at least one characteristic and is at one or more of a plurality of positions within an organization. The organization includes a plurality of secondary CA's capable of issuing role certificates to respective groups of terminals of the organization, and includes a plurality of tertiary CA's capable of issuing permission certificates to respective sub-groups of terminals of the organization. In this regard, the secondary CA is capable of providing at least one role certificate to the terminal based upon the position of the terminal within the organization. The tertiary CA,

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on the other hand, is capable of providing at least one permission certificate to the terminal based upon the characteristics of the respective terminal. Thus, the server is capable of authenticating the terminal based upon an identity certificate, the role certificate and the permission certificate of the terminal to thereby determine whether to grant the terminal access to at least one resource of the server.

As described above, the Pirhonen application and the claimed invention both generally relate to use of certificates to authenticate a mobile device. Nonetheless, in contrast to the claimed invention, the Pirhonen application does not teach or suggest multiple certificates that are provided to terminals of groups and sub-groups within an organization, or the certification authorities (CA's) providing such certificates. More particularly, the Pirhonen application does not teach or suggest a secondary CA capable of providing one or more role certificates, and a tertiary CA capable of providing one or more permission certificates, as recited by independent Claim 1. Further, the Pirhonen application does not teach or suggest a server capable of authenticating a terminal based upon an identity certificate, a role certificate and a permission certificate, as also recited by independent Claim 1.

The Pirhonen application does disclose a certificate issuer providing a payment certificate to a user's terminal, which can thereafter be used to purchase an item from a vending machine. However, the Pirhonen application does not teach or suggest that the certificate issuer provides certificates based upon a position of the user within an organization including a plurality of users, where the organization includes a plurality of such certificate issuers capable of providing certificates to groups of users within the organization, similar to the secondary CA of independent Claim 1. Likewise, the Pirhonen application does not teach or suggest that the certificate issuer provides certificates based upon a characteristic of the user that is located at a position within the organization, where the organization includes a plurality of such certificate issuers capable of providing certificates to respective sub-groups of users within the organization, similar to the tertiary CA of independent Claim 1. The Pirhonen application also does not disclose that the vending machine authenticates the user based upon an identity certificate, the role certificate and the permission certificate, similar to the server of independent Claim 1.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention of independent Claim 1, and by dependency Claims 2-6, is patentably distinct from the Pirhonen application. Applicant also respectfully submits that independent Claims 7 and 13 recite subject matter similar to independent Claim 1. For example, independent Claims 7 and 13 recite providing a role certificate and a permission certificate, and authenticating a terminal based upon those certificates as well as an identity certificate. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention of independent Claims 7 and 13, and by dependency Claims 8-12 and 14-18, is patentably distinct from the Pirhonen application for at least the same reasons given above with respect to independent Claim 1. As the present application and the Pirhonen application are assigned to Nokia Inc. (a subsidiary of Nokia Corp.) and Nokia Corp., respectively, it is also noted that the Pirhonen application cannot properly be cited to support an obviousness rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Pirhonen application is overcome.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,




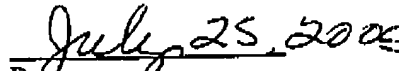
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